

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 010940Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3383

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

ZEN AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 343

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, ETRD, MZ, ZA, MI

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS OF CARGO FROM MOZAMBIQUE
TO ZAMBIA DISCUSSED

REF: A) LOURENCO MARQUES 316; B) STEVENSON TO WALKER LETTER
MARCH 11, 1975

1. SUMMARY: DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ZAMBIAN MINISTERIAL DELEGATION
(REFTEL) AND MOZAMBIQUE AUTHORITIES WHICH VISITED MOZAMBIQUE
MARCH 19 RESULTED IN DISCLOSURE OF MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEM OF
BACKLOG OF GOODS FOR ZAMBIA ACCUMMULATED IN PORT OF BEIRA.
ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, ENGINEER CALDEIRA PINTO, AN OFFICIAL
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OF CFM (PORTS AND RAILWAYS AUTHORITIES), ISSUED A STATEMENT

IN WHICH HE NOTED THAT SOME 42,000 TONS OF CARGO FOR ZAMBIA WAS SITTING ON RAILWAY SIDINGS IN BEIRA AWAITING SHIPMENT TO ZAMBIA. THIS WAS DUE TO A NUMBER OF FACTORS, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF WHICH INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: TOTAL CARGO FOR ZAMBIA ROSE FROM 17,000 TONS PER MONTH IN CALENDAR 74 TO CURRENT 35,000 TONS PER MONTH AND THE SYSTEM WAS UNEQUIPPED TO HANDLE THE INCREASE; INTERNAL MALAWI RAIL LINE WAS COMPLETELY CLOGGED UP, WITH 17,000 TONS OF ZAMBIAN CARGO STILL UNDELIVERED IN MALAWI; LATTER UNPREPARED TO ACCEPT MORE CARGO UNTIL THIS BACKLOG IS CLEARED UP; FINALLY MALAWI HAS NOT RETURNED OVER 500 FREIGHTCARS OF THE MOZAMBIQUE SYSTEM THUS IMPEDING THE FLOW OF RAIL TRAFFIC.

2. PINTO ADDED THAT MALAWI WAS CURRENTLY ALLOWING ONLY 20 RAILCARS OF ALL TYPES A DAY FROM MOZAMBIQUE.

3. PINTO SUGGESTED THAT A PARTIAL SOLUTION WOULD BE TO SEND 30-40 FREIGHTCAR LOADS A DAY TO THE RAILHEAD AT MOATIZE (TRANS-ZAMBEZIA LINE) FROM WHERE THE GOODS COULD BE UNLOADED AND TRUCKED TO ZAMBIA. SOME NEW FACILITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE BUILT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, HE ADDED.

4. OF THE 42,000 TONS FOR ZAMBIA TIED UP IN BEIRA, FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE SPECIFICALLY NOTED: 2,000 PASSENGER CARS; 2,300 TONS OF POL; 1,000 TONS OF ASPHALT; 3,790 TONS OF GENERAL CARGO; 13,432 TONS OF SULPHUR; 11,862 TONS OF WOOD; AND 9,040 TONS OF FERTILIZER.

5. HASWELL MWELE, ZAMBIAN MINISTER OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING, NOTED THAT CURRENTLY BEIRA WAS HANDLING 35,000 TONS OF ZAMBIAN CARGO PER MONTH, NACALA 14,000 TONS, DAR ES SALAAM 25,000 TONS, AND LOBITO 30,000 TONS PER MONTH. SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE THE MOATIZE SUGGESTION INTO CONSIDERATION.

6. COMMENT: SINCE MALAWI-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS CURRENTLY STRAINED, THERE MIGHT BE GOOD OPPORTUNITY HERE FOR MALAWI TO MAKE FRATERNAL GESTURE TOWARD EASING BEIRA BACKLOG FOR ZAMBIA.

WALKER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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